

FLYNN

Serial No. **09/555,917**

Amendment in RCE dated October 4, 2004

Response to Office Action dated July 7, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. By the present amendment, claims 1, 11, 12, 14 and 17 have been amended and claims 2-4 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer as to the subject matter contained therein. Claims 1, 5-14 and 17 are pending.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (*Currently Amended*) A method of routing data directed to a mobile node in a communications system, comprising:

maintaining reachability information for the mobile node;

sending data to the mobile node when the reachability information for the mobile node indicates that the mobile node is reachable; ~~and~~

setting an alternative destination to which data is to be sent when the reachability information indicates that the mobile node to which the data is directed is unreachable, said alternative destination comprising a proxy node;

storing the data at said proxy node; and

forwarding data stored in the proxy node to the mobile node when the reachability information indicates that the mobile node is reachable.

Claims 2-4. (*Canceled*)

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Claim 5. (*Previously Presented*) A method according to claim 1, comprising setting the data destination in accordance with a user preference.

Claim 6. (*Original*) A method according to claim 5, wherein the user preference specifies the conditions in which the user specified destination is to be used.

Claim 7. (*Previously Presented*) A method according to claim 1, wherein the reachability information comprises at least one destination address.

Claim 8. (*Previously Presented*) A method according to claim 1, wherein the communications system comprises an Internet Protocol (IP) based system.

Claim 9. (*Previously Presented*) A method according to claim 8, wherein the reachability information is maintained by a home agent router.

Claim 10. (*Previously Presented*) A method according to claim 8, wherein the destination address is a care-of address for the mobile node.

Claim 11. (*Currently Amended*) A mobile communications system comprising:
a mobile node;

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means for maintaining reachability information for the mobile node;
means for receiving messages directed to the mobile node; and
a service controller configured to set a destination, to which
messages directed to the mobile node are to be forwarded when the reachability
information indicates that the mobile node is unreachable, said destination
comprising a proxy node for storing said data; and.

means for forwarding data stored in the proxy node to the mobile
node when the reachability information indicates that the mobile node is reachable

Claim 12. (*Currently Amended*) A method of routing data directed to a mobile
host which is away from its home network, comprising:

maintaining a record of locations through which the data can be
routed to the mobile host, and in the event that the data cannot be routed to the
mobile host through any of the locations specified in the record, then routing the
data to ~~an alternative destination~~ a proxy from which it is available for subsequent
retrieval and forwarding to the mobile host when the data can be routed to the
mobile host.

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Claim 13. (*Original*) A method according to claim 12, further comprising storing the data at said alternative destination until the mobile host becomes available.

Claim 14. (*Currently Amended*) A mobile communications system comprising:
a mobile host movable between its home network and a plurality of connected communications networks;

a router configured to route data intended for the mobile host to a location through which the data can be sent to the mobile host, when the mobile host is away from its home network; and

a service controller configured to intervene so as to send the data to ~~an alternative~~ proxy location, when the data cannot be sent to the mobile host, and sending the data from the proxy location to the mobile host when the mobile host becomes available.

Claims 15-16. (*Canceled*).

Claim 17. (*Currently Amended*) A method of routing data directed to a mobile node in a communications system, comprising:

maintaining reachability information for the mobile node; and

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setting a proxy destination to which data is to be sent from a sender of the data and stored only when the reachability information indicates that the mobile node is unreachable, said proxy destination being a destination other than the unreachable mobile node, and sending the data stored in the proxy destination to the mobile node when the reachability information indicates that the mobile node is reachable.